

organisms have entered the body. This period may vary from a few hours to several weeks according to the virulence of the organism and the condition and kind of host.

When the organisms enter the body, they immediately commence to multiply and soon there are countless numbers of them. Soon the blood corpuscles attack the organisms and a fight to a finish follows. If the host has been weakened from any other cause, the attack of the disease is much more severe.

When it has been found that the animal is sick, it is very essential that a correct diagnosis of the disease be made. This is very important because of the fact that we have serums and vaccines to prevent further spreading of many of our common diseases. Since these are specific for certain diseases, their use against any other disease is useless. Unless the farmer can diagnose the case properly, he should call a veterinarian to treat the case.

If the disease has become established on the farm, precaution should be taken to prevent the spread to all the herd and when the disease is conquered, efforts should be made to prevent its introduction again.

Micro-organisms may be transmitted from place to place by a great many ways. The most common way, no doubt, is through the purchase of infected animals or infectious material, such as milk. The opportunity for the spread of the organisms depends on whether it produces spores or not. Most of the non-spore-forming organisms cannot withstand very long periods outside the body of the animal.

With spore-formers the opposite is true and the anthrax bacillus, which forms spores, lives for fifteen to twenty years in the soil.

The control of infectious diseases rests on the prevention of the passage of these organisms from the diseased to the healthy animal. The infected animal should be isolated from all other animals. This will prevent contact with healthy animals. All discharges from the infected animal must be destroyed immediately so that it cannot be a source of contamination to the healthy animals. This can be accomplished by disinfectants or by burning. This process must be thorough as a single living organism can bring about the disease in a healthy animal. Heat and sunlight are the two natural agencies for destruction of micro-organisms but as these are not always available, disinfecting must be done by means of chemicals. All the chemical disinfectants placed upon the market are not equally effective and many of them are valueless for disinfecting purposes.

The first step to be taken in disinfecting stables is to clean thoroughly the floor and walls. If this is not done, the action of the disinfectant is very materially decreased. Common disinfectants which are available to the farmers at all times are coal-tar products and lime. The coal-tar products are undoubtedly the best class of disinfectants for the farmer to use. Frequent and thorough application of disinfectants is a most economical preventive of diseases of farm animals, requiring only a small amount of labor and equipment.